

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of March 13, 2017

School Bus Cameras, Future of Transportation, Prekindergarten Programs and Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>.

Also the Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>.

 On March 7 the Council session will begin at 1:30 p.m.

COUNCIL

 Supplemental Appropriation to MCPS' FY17 Operating Budget, Entrepreneurial Activities Fund: \$1,500,000 for School Bus Safety Camera Program

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a \$1.5 million supplemental appropriation for the School Bus Safety Camera Program. The staff report can be viewed at: http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5015&meta_id=132761.

The Board of Education requested this appropriation. The source of funds is the School Bus Safety Camera Program citation revenue in the General Fund. The County Executive recommends approval.

- As authorized by the Board of Education, MCPS entered into a contract with Force Multiplier Solutions, Inc. (FXS) to provide a comprehensive school bus safety system to MCPS and a

memorandum of understanding with County Government to set forth the parties' respective obligations for effective implementation of the School Bus Safety Camera Program.

- This increase in funding is needed because the contract between MCPS and FXS and the memorandum of understanding with the County stipulate that all revenue generated from citation fines are to be transferred from the General Fund to the MCPS Entrepreneurial Activities Fund to enable MCPS to compensate FXS until such time that FXS recovers its capital investment.
- On July 11, 2016 the Public Safety and Education Committees held a joint meeting to review the school bus safety camera program, which included a discussion of the FXS contract.
- The appropriation would give MCPS the authority to spend a maximum of \$1.5 million in FY17; however, the County will only transfer the actual amount of citation revenue received for the School Bus Safety Camera Program.



Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY17 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service: \$1,975,500 for Senator Amoss Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Fund Grant

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and vote on a \$1,975,500 supplemental appropriation for a Senator Amoss Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Fund grant. The source of funds is a State grant. The Executive recommends approval. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5015&meta_id=132763 .

The appropriation will fund the acquisition and/or rehabilitation of apparatus and capital equipment and the renovation of facilities used to house apparatus. This appropriation is needed to expend the proceeds of the FY17 State of Maryland Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance (State 508) Fund grant and accrued interest. The Amoss Fund was established to provide grants for fire, rescue, and ambulance services to promote high-quality service and the continued financial viability of volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies.



Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendation – Local Map Amendment H-118, Georgetown Professional Associates, LLLP, for property located at 6300 Democracy Blvd. in Bethesda

The Council is scheduled to vote on Local Map Amendment H-118. The Hearing Examiner, the Planning Board, and Planning Staff recommend approval. The staff report can be viewed at: http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5015&meta_id=132794 .

Georgetown Professional Associates, LLLP (the Applicant) requested the reclassification of 1.04 acres (45,220 square feet) of land located at 6300 Democracy Blvd. in Bethesda from the existing R-60 Residential Zone to the EOFF-0.5, H-35, Employment Office Floating Zone. The property is situated on the south side of Democracy Blvd. and is 800 feet west of Old Georgetown Rd. The current use on the site is a medical and dental office building. The use operates under a special exception that allows a medical clinic of up to 18 physicians.

- The Applicant seeks greater flexibility to house offices because the number of individual medical practitioners available to fill these small offices has diminished in recent years leaving long vacancies. The Applicant would retain the existing building and would merely change the nature of some of the tenants.
- The Applicant has committed to binding elements that would limit the use to medical and dental clinics and general offices and would exclude businesses that regularly use commercial vehicles such as painters and home improvement contractors.



Future of Transportation

Dan Hoffman, Montgomery County's Chief Innovation Officer, has organized a group of panelists who will participate in a Council discussion about the future of transportation focused on the development of autonomous (self-driving) vehicles. The panelists include: Mark K. Dowd,

Former Senior Advisor in the White House Office of Management and Budget; Sophie Shulman, Former Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, U.S. Dept. of Transportation; John Bowis, President and CEO, Chevy Chase Cars; and Emil Wolanin, Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation. The staff report, which includes the biographies for each panelist, can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5015&meta_id=132796 .

COMMITTEE



Linkages Connects

On March 13 at 9:30 a.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee will meet jointly with the Education (ED) Committee for a presentation on a proposal for a new school-based program called Linkages Connects (LC). The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5290&meta_id=132730 .

The following individuals are expected to participate in the discussion: Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Dept. of Health and Human Services; JoAnn Barnes, Chief, Children, Youth and Family Services, Dept. of Health and Human Services; Monica Martin, Program Manager, Linkages Resource Team, Dept. of Health and Human Services; and Dr. Maria Navarro, Chief Academic Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools. In previous discussions of the Linkages to Learning (LTL) program, members of the HHS and ED Committees expressed interest in linking more school communities to mental health and social services and requested lower cost options for service delivery. In response to this request, the Dept. of Health and Human Services convened an interagency committee and developed the “Linkages Connects” model. The model builds on MCPS reorganization efforts that realign student and family engagement supports to high need schools.



OLO Report 2017-7, Pre-K in Montgomery County and Other Jurisdictions

The Committees also will review OLO Report 2017-7. The Council tasked OLO to improve its understanding and oversight of prekindergarten (pre-k) locally by describing the benefits of pre-k, best practices, local programs, estimated costs to expand pre-k, and practices in other jurisdictions. The full report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2017%20Reports/OLOReport2017_7PreKinMontgomeryCountyandinOtherJurisdictions.pdf .

OLO's findings include:

- High-quality pre-k programs with low class sizes, high-quality teachers, and effective curriculums can generate up to eight dollars in benefits for every dollar spent on low-income children.
- About \$23 million is expended on public general education pre-k programs for four-year-olds, mainly for half-day Head Start and State Pre-K programs for low-income children.
- Converting half-day pre-k slots into full-day slots and extending full-day slots to families earning up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level would cost \$30 to \$35 million annually.
- Creating a system of universal pre-k for all four-year-olds would cost another \$30 to \$35 million annually for half-day programs, or \$60 to \$70 million for full-day programs.
- Other jurisdictions generally target resources to low-income families for pre-k (even within universal programs), take several years to ramp up programs, and often rely on dedicated sources of revenue to fund pre-k (set-asides, new taxes, or lottery revenue).

OLO's recommendations to the Council include:

- Solicit interest in expanding pre-k among public and private pre-k providers.
- Consider which agencies/organizations are best suited to lead and expand pre-k.

- Discuss the potential rollout of expanded pre-k programs to address student need and to encourage socio-economic integration.
- Reflect on what, if any, dedicated funding sources should be pursued to expand pre-k.
- Consider whether the County should support policy efforts and public engagement focused narrowly on pre-k or broadly on services for children.



Designation of Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families as the County's Local Management Board for Children, Youth and Families

On March 13 at 10:30 a.m. the HHS Committee will meet to review the designation of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families (Collaboration Council) as the County's Local Management Board (LMB). The staff report can be viewed at: http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5288&meta_id=132728.

State law requires the County to have a LMB to ensure the effective coordination and implementation of local service delivery systems for children, youth, and families. The Collaboration Council has served as the County's LMB since 1993.

- In September 2003 the Council authorized the designation of a quasi-public nonprofit corporation as the County's LMB. The Council subsequently designated the Collaboration Council in its newly incorporated non-profit structure as the County's LMB in 2004.
- Prior to 2004 the Collaboration Council operated as a part of County Government. Subsequently the Council approved resolutions designating the Collaboration Council as the County's LMB three more times. The last designation was in 2014. By law the Council's designation of a local management board expires three years after the designating resolution is adopted, unless the Council extends the designation by adopting another resolution.



Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan

On March 13 at 2 p.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will continue its review of the Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan.

The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5284&meta_id=132748.

The Planning Board's July 2016 Draft Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan can be viewed at:

http://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/BDP-Planning-Board-Draft_lowres2.pdf.

A summary of the Planning Board's Draft Plan presentation can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/bethesda_downtown/documents/BDP_PlaningBoardDraftPresentation_091416.pdf.

Downtown Bethesda is located along Wisconsin Ave. between Friendship Heights and the Capital Beltway, centered on the intersection of Wisconsin Ave., Old Georgetown Rd. and East-West Hwy. The Bethesda Downtown Plan retains the Plan Area boundary of the 1994 Bethesda Central Business District (CBD) Sector Plan, including the areas covered by both the 2006 Woodmont Triangle Amendment and the 2014 Planning Board Draft Bethesda Purple Line Station Minor Master Plan Amendment. The area covers approximately 451 acres and is bounded by the National Institutes of Health campus on the north; Tilbury St., Sleaford Rd., Cheltenham Rd., Capital Crescent Trail, 46th St. and West Ave. on the east; Norwood Park and Nottingham Dr. on the south; and Arlington Rd. and Old Georgetown Rd. on the west.

Some of the goals of the proposed Plan include:

- Coordinating and aligning the Central Business District (CBD), Urban District (UD), and Parking Lot District (PLD) boundaries.
- Preserving and enhancing the community's existing affordable housing throughout the Sector Plan area by leveraging proximity to transit stations and supporting flexible zoning and density incentives and expanded economic programs.

- Making the increased provision for moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs) from 12.5 percent to 15 percent a priority amenity in all optional method projects.
- Consolidating retail in appropriate places in the Sector Plan area through designated retail centers or nodes.
- Strengthening the centers of activity through economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainability.
- Encouraging mixed-use development to allow development to adapt to market conditions.
- Creating new civic gathering spaces in the expanded centers of activity.



Montgomery County Public Schools - CIP Amendments

On March 13 at 2 p.m. the Education (ED) Committee will review several items including: school enrollment and demographics; the Subdivision Staging Policy and Cluster Solution Projects; a \$5 million supplemental appropriation for relocatable classrooms; and countywide and other CIP amendments. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=5289&meta_id=132736.

Enrollment

- Official September 30, 2016 enrollment for the 2016-17 school year is 159,022 students. This is 2,575 students more than 2015-16 official enrollment and close (+6 students) to the number projected for 2016-17 at this time last year.
- By FY23, enrollment is expected to decline at the elementary school level (-664 students) after many years of steady increases. However, enrollment is expected to climb by 2,506 students at the middle school level and increase sharply at the high school level (+7,286) through FY23. While not as high as the peaks in the mid-2000s, birth rates remain at a historically high level (13,250 in 2015) and are a major reason why we are not seeing as large a decline at the elementary school level and why we continue to expect jumps in middle and high school enrollment over the next six years.
- Overall enrollment is expected to climb to 168,480 (9,238 more students) through the 2022-23 school year.
- MCPS staff will also talk about the ongoing demographic changes in the student population, including racial/ethnic trends and the continuing high rate of student eligibility for free and reduced meals (FARMS) (34.9 percent in 2015).

FY18 SSP Schools Test

- With regard to the FY18 test (year 2022-23), MCPS and Council Staff are working to identify the clusters and/or elementary or middle school service areas that would fall into moratorium beginning July 1, 2017 to see where cluster solution projects would be feasible (i.e. MCPS will have planning work in place that would allow for new capacity to be brought on-line by August 2022).
- For those areas where cluster solution projects would be feasible, Council Staff will work with Planning Department Staff to determine which potential moratorium areas have or are expected to have residential subdivision plans under review. Council Staff is preparing cluster solution projects for consideration by the Council as amendments to the FY17-22 CIP. These projects are expected to be introduced on March 14.

Relocatable Classrooms

- The Board of Education approved the transmittal of a supplemental appropriation request to the Executive and Council for \$5 million for the lease, purchase, movement, and

rehabilitation of relocatable classrooms needed for the 2017-18 school year. The Board of Education transmitted this request to the Council on March 8. Introduction of the request and a public hearing/action will be scheduled shortly.

- MCPS' request would accelerate \$5 million in the current revenue-funded requested appropriation from FY18 to FY17 to allow MCPS to move forward with contractual work this spring, so that the relocatable classrooms can be ready by the start of the 2017-18 school year. The expenditures related to the appropriation would still occur in FY18.

Countywide and Other CIP Amendments

Council staff reviews several countywide and other CIP requests that can be found on pages 7-12 of the staff report.



Expedited Bill 2-17, Employees' Retirement System-Retirement Savings Plan-Employee Rights and Benefits-Amendments

On March 16 at 9:30 a.m. the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will review Bill 2-17. Council President Berliner is the lead sponsor, at the request of the County Executive. The staff report will be available on March 14. Bill 2-17 would amend the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and the Retirement Savings Plan (RSP) to remain tax qualified under the Internal Revenue Code. Bill 2-17 does not propose substantive changes, and none of these amendments would change any employee's existing benefits or rights under either plan.

- The County submitted ERS and the RSP to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to receive a determination letter that each County retirement plan would remain tax qualified. The IRS has requested several technical changes that require amendments to specific provisions of the ERS and the RSP related to the Internal Revenue Code. The IRS requested that the County amend the plans to:
 - ✓ specify that a non-spousal beneficiary may receive a rollover distribution (if otherwise permitted) (ERS and RSP);
 - ✓ include Internal Revenue Code provisions relating to certain rights provided to employees on military leave (ERS and RSP);
 - ✓ included a definition of "eligible rollover distribution" (ERS);
 - ✓ provide a definition of "limitation year" for purposes of complying with Internal Revenue Code Section 415 (RSP); and
 - ✓ specify that defined contribution plans maintained by the County will be aggregated for purposes of complying with Internal Revenue Code Section 415 (RSP).



OLO Report 2016-8, MC311 Performance and Data

The Committee also will review OLO Report 2016-8. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2016%20Reports/OLO%20Report%202016-8%20MC311%20Performance%20and%20Data.pdf> .

MC311 provides the public with a single point of contact for non-emergency information on County services and programs. The OLO report responds to the Council's request to review best practices in 311 performance measurement, how MC311 uses performance data, the responsiveness of County departments to service requests, and the use of MC311 performance data as part of the County's budget process. OLO finds that the Executive's approach to MC311 performance measurement is consistent with best practices; however, opportunities exist to track additional information and improve the quality of performance data.

OLO's finding include:

- The MC311 Customer Service Center uses similar metrics to those used in other jurisdictions to measure performance in the intake of requests.
- MC311 data show a high level of performance in the intake of customer requests.

- MC311 assesses representatives on service request accuracy and call quality. However, only some of these data are included in metrics used to assess the overall performance of the MC311 Customer Service Center.
- Similar to other jurisdictions, MC311 conducts surveys to measure customer satisfaction. OLO found examples in other jurisdictions of different methods for sampling the 311 customer audience to measure customer satisfaction.
- Internal customer survey data indicate that errors in request intake impact departments as well as the quality of MC311 data.
- MC311 measures service request fulfillment performance against targets called “Service-Level Agreements”, an industry standard performance metric. MC311 has led to the development of robust targets for department performance.
- 2015 data show that over 90 percent of all service requests met target timeframes for fulfillment. For a small number of request topics, a review of performance or a revision of targets may be warranted.
- Departments have limited control over performance against targets for certain request topics that are complex or require action by third parties.
- While MC311 has resulted in improved data collection for performance measurement, several technological issues contribute to omissions and errors in MC311 data. Addressing these issues would require system upgrades.
- Departments leverage data from MC311 to make data-driven decisions.
- MC311 data has the potential to play an important role in the Executive’s ongoing results based budgeting efforts, along with other sources of performance data.
- MC311 allows customers to submit requests via a mobile-friendly website, but does not currently have mobile application or “app” technology. Case study jurisdictions offering 311 mobile apps reported an increase 311 participation.
- The Executive makes MC311 performance data available to the public. However, in contrast to other jurisdictions, limited geographic data are available.

OLO’s recommendations to the Council include:

- Request that the Executive provide additional data on service request accuracy, first-call resolution rates, and data from the new Workforce Optimization tool when it is available.
- Request that the Executive review whether additional metrics or revised targets may be useful for assessing service request performance on complex topics.
- Request that the Executive explore ways to reach a wider audience when measuring MC311 customer satisfaction including a formal community survey of residents.
- Request that the Executive report on the technical feasibility and cost of implementing MC311 system enhancements including increased system integration, tracking duplicate requests, GIS and field access capabilities, and a mobile app.
- Request that the Executive explore ways to standardize the use of the MC311 performance data in the budget process.



MC311-Staffing and Service Level Agreements

The Committee also will review staffing and service agreements for MC311 and the relocation of the call center. The new MC311 location has provided improved capacity to handle surges in call volumes because of trunk lines that serve the call center. In addition, the Committee will discuss staffing issues, receive an update on a new contract with King Teleservices, and discuss the way the Service Level Agreements with the operational departments are set. Patrick Lacefield, Director, Public Information Office, and Leslie Hamm, MC311 Center Director, are expected to attend the meeting. The staff report will be available on March 14.



IG Final Advisory Memorandum 17-001, Communication of Building Permit Information to State Department of Assessment and Taxation

The Committee will close out the meeting by reviewing the IG's Final Advisory Memorandum 17-001. The full report can be viewed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2017/mcdps_permit_comm_adv_me_mo_25_aug_2016.pdf.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint stating that major improvements had been made to houses in the complainant's neighborhood, but that properties' assessments did not reflect the resulting increases in property values. The complainant stated that the County may not be collecting the appropriate additional property taxes from the owners of these properties. The IG's report found that "DPS could facilitate SDAT's reassessment work, and we believe that it is in the County's interest for DPS to make SDAT's reassessment tasks easier."

The IG recommends the following:

- DPS should continue to work toward incorporating SDAT account numbers into the building permit information it communicates to SDAT.
- DPS should determine what changes are necessary to improve the accuracy of the estimated costs.
- DPS should continue to work toward communicating to SDAT when residential properties are ready for occupancy.

The CAO's response to the recommendations from the IG are as follows:

- In 2016 the County began including tax ID numbers in the reports submitted to SDAT.
- DPS will explore developing a program to provide a calculation based upon square footage of construction, type of construction, and an assumed estimated construction cost based on tables created for the purpose of estimating permit fees. The CAO wrote that the ICC construction cost tables were developed for the purpose of setting permit fees and are not representative of specific construction. The CAO also wrote that construction costs do not equal increases in fair market value.
- DPS began providing occupancy permit reports to SDAT in 2016, following SDAT's request for this information.



Review of Results from FY16 External Audit and CliftonLarsonAllen Contract Renewal

On March 16 at 2 p.m. the Audit Committee will meet to review the results of the FY16 External Audit and the CliftonLarsonAllen contract renewal. The staff report will be available on March 14. The County and the retirement plans received clean audit opinions. The auditors did not find any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls. The following individuals are expected to attend the meeting: Sean Walker, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen; Aires Coleman, Engagement Director, CliftonLarsonAllen; Alexandre Espinosa, Director, Dept. of Finance; Karen Hawkins, Chief Operating Officer, Dept. of Finance; Lenny Moore, Controller, Dept. of Finance; Linda Herman, Executive Director, Montgomery County Employee Retirement Plans.